

With this contingent came also a few of the original settlers from England who were too cowardly, or too loyal to King George III. to join with their compatriots to throw off the British yoke and win the right to govern themselves and to establish a government the most progressive and successful on earth and the marvel of the world. These latter became known as the United Empire Loyalists, many of whom lived to see, if not regret, their cowardice or mistake. It is doubtful if to-day there lives a family of their descendants in Canada the greater number of whom have not recrossed the boundary line and returned to live in the country from which their progenitors so unwittingly deserted.

Numbers of Irish and Scotch emigrants also found their way into these parts and, as very natural under the circumstances, settled where they could do so, near each other and so became known as the Irish settlement and the Scotch settlement; and others lost their individuality by taking up their abode in settlements with a mixed population.

The Habitants, whose ancestors had settled along the valley of the St. Lawrence more than two hundred years previously, still clung to the home of their childhood and were less in evidence in the townships fifty years ago than they are to-day. It is true many of them found temporary employment in the lumbering operations and about the saw mills of the settlers of that time; and their long processions to the land of Uncle Sam in their two-wheeled carts "to mek it de hay on de Stait, me!" in the summer-time, are well remembered, but their abiding place—their home—was in the "French country" away off towards *la belle Rivière*.

These different elements from widely different countries and conditions, met upon a neutral ground for a common purpose; and while cherishing the memories of the land from which they sprung, they sank all mooted questions of religion, nationality and politics in the greater one of mutual toleration, mutual interdependence and mutual helpfulness.

Recalling this serves to awaken old associations and old memories, and when we take a retrospective glance we see in the past only that which is useful, good and ennobling, if circumscribed and humble.